

Application No.: 10/620,772Docket No.: 500110526 (1509-428)**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method of distributing files between computing devices of at least one group of computing devices including the steps step of automatically performing a file reconciliation routine in response to the networking of at least two of said computing devices in the same network in response to the networking of at least two of said computing devices in the same network being performed, and then periodically, at periodic intervals automatically upon the networking of automatically performing a file reconciliation routine of said at least two of said computing devices while said at least two of said computing devices are networked to each other in the same network.

2. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A method according to claim 1, including the step of controlling at least one of said computing devices to transmit file reconciliation data periodically irrespective of its or their connectivity to other computing devices.

3. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 1, ~~including the step of providing in~~wherein said computing devices include at least one shared files directory, and ~~further including into which shared files are automatically stored~~storing shared files in the

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at least one shared files directory.

4. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 3, wherein the at least one shared files directory is directly accessible by software applications stored in the

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computing devices and further including directly accessing the at least one shared files directory of the software applications stored in the computing devices.

5. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 1, including the step of distributing all shared files amongst all computers networked together.

6. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 1, wherein all distributed files can be read from and written to in any of said computing devices and further including reading from and writing to all distributed files in any of said computing devices.

7. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 1, including the steps of issuing file data to ~~unspecified computers within the group and receiving file data from unspecified computers within the group~~ all computers that are connected to each other within the group without specifying the computers in the group to which the issued file data are issued.

8. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method of distributing files between computing devices of at least one group of computing devices that are connected to each other in a network, the method including the steps of issuing file data to ~~unspecified~~ all computers within the group without specifying the computers in the group to which the file issue data are issued and receiving file data from ~~unspecified~~ all computers within the group without

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specifying the computers in the group that are receiving the received file data.

9. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 8, including the step of accepting a computer as a computer of said at least one group on the basis of the provision of group identification data specific to the group or specific to the device.

10. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A method according to claim 8, including the step of transmitting a journal of file history for each shared file from one computer into the network.

11. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 10, including the step of [[a]]one of the computing device devices requesting transmitting a request for only file versions not stored therein.

12. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 10, wherein a file journal includes a code indicative of the contents of each file version in the journal; and further including transmitting the code without transmitting the entire journal.

13. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A method according to claim 8, including the step of dividing files into a plurality of portions for data transfer.

14. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 13, wherein each file

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portion ~~is provided with~~ includes a contents code, the method including the step of transmitting only those file portions which have been modified.

15. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 13, including the step of providing in each computing device an accessible list of file portions stored therein and the step of determining whether a required file portion ~~required~~ is stored therein from the list of accessible file portions.

16. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 8, including the step of storing file versions in a format in which they can be read from and written to.

17. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A distributed file system for distributing files between computing devices of at least one group of computing devices, the system including a file reconciliation unit operable to automatically reconcile files between computing devices at periodic intervals ~~automatically upon the networking between at least~~ two of said computing devices that are coupled to each other in the same network.

18. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A distributed file system for distributing files between computing devices of at least one group of computing devices that are connected to each other in a network, the system including a transmission unit operable to issue file data to ~~unspecified all~~ computers within the group without specifying the computers in the group to which the issue file data are issued, and a receiving unit operable to receive file

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data from ~~unspecified all~~ computers within the group without specifying the computers in the group that are receiving the received file data.

19. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A computer network including a distributed file system according to claim 17.

20. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A software application for distributing files stored on or in a memory device, which software application is operable to perform the method according to claim 1.

21. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method according to claim 1, including the step of transmitting a journal of file history for each shared file from one computer ~~[[into]]~~to the network.

22. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A method according to claim 1, including the step of dividing files into a plurality of portions for data transfer.

23. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A method according to claim 1, including the step of storing file versions in a format in which they can be read from and written to.

24. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A software application for distributing files stored on or in a memory device, which software application is operable to perform the

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method according to claim 8.

25. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A computer network including a distributed file system according to claim 18.

26. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A computer network including a distributed file system operable by a method of distributing files according to claim 1.

27. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A computer network including a distributed file system operable by a method of distributing files according to claim 8.